



Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Linda A. Carlisle, Secretary

North Carolina
Department of Cultural Resources

News Release

Contact: Kaeli Schurr (252) 473-2655
Fay Mitchell (919) 807-7389

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Outer Banks History Center Debuts 150th Anniversary Civil War Exhibit

MANTEO – The Outer Banks History Center will debut a new exhibit in the History Center Gallery on “First Friday,” March 2, “The Civil War Comes to Roanoke Island: Fishers, Fighters and Freedmen.” It is part of a statewide and national commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War.

“The Civil War Comes to Roanoke Island: Fishers, Fighters and Freedmen” tells the story of a how remote and sparsely populated Roanoke Island became the scene of an important battle early in the war, the part played by local residents, and the impact of military occupation through the end of the war.

Letters, newspapers, artwork, and other materials from the History Center’s collections present the unique views of people who experienced these events, from the local watermen and farmers, to sailors and soldiers from afar, to the thousands of blacks, both free and enslaved, who flocked to the island for protection during the Union occupation. A video by television producer Ken Mann and loaned artifacts further enrich the exhibit, which will remain on display through Dec. 30.

All are invited to the free opening reception hosted by the Friends of the Outer Banks History Center. The exhibit is made possible by generous support from the Outer Banks Community Foundation (Frank Stick Memorial Fund), the Friends of the Outer Banks History Center, National Park Service, and Island Farm on Roanoke Island.

Partnering with the Outer Banks History Center to present a weekend of Civil War programming is Island Farm on Roanoke Island, a non-profit living history site that interprets daily life on Roanoke Island in the mid-1800s. Their “Civil War Living History Event” will feature Union and Confederate soldiers, living history demonstrations, historic presentations and displays on Saturday, March 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person; children age 5 & under are free. For more information, call 252.473.6500 or visit www.theislandfarm.com.

For more information about “The Civil War Comes to Roanoke Island: Fishers, Fighters and Freedmen” or the Outer Banks History Center, call (252) 473-2655, e-mail obhc@ncdcr.gov or visit www.obhistorycenter.ncdcr.gov. The Outer Banks History Center is a regional archives and research library administered by the N. C. Office of Archives and History, Department of Cultural Resources. The Friends of the Outer Banks History Center, a 501(c) 3 organization, provides ongoing support to the center through volunteer and financial assistance.

The N.C. Department of Cultural Resources annually serves more than 19 million people through its 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, the nation’s first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the N.C. Arts Council, and the State Archives. Cultural Resources champions North Carolina’s creative industry, which employs nearly 300,000 North Carolinians and contributes more than \$41 billion to the state’s economy. To learn more, visit www.ncculture.com.

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